

Eliminating hunger at home and abroad takes an all-hands-on-deck approach. It requires leaders with visionary solutions and supporting team members who are willing to put in the hard work to bring about meaningful change. David Beasley and his team at the WFP embody these principles. I congratulate them and offer my continued support as we work together toward a world where hunger is no longer an issue.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when his official portrait that will hang in the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing room was unveiled last month, Senator PAT ROBERTS said the panel he led so well “has a long history of caring more about the issues than the ideology, more about the people than the party.”

Those words perfectly describe PAT’s philosophy of public service. Throughout his four decades in Congress, this remarkable Kansan has always stood for government that is responsible to the taxpayers and responsive to the needs of the American people. He believes in a legislative process that is open, transparent, and bipartisan.

PAT retires with an extraordinary record of accomplishment. He is the first person in history to have served as chairman of the Agriculture Committees in both the House and the Senate. He is Kansas’ longest serving Member of Congress. As the ultimate evidence of the trust the people of his beloved State have in him, PAT has been on the ballot in 24 elections since 1980 and has won every time.

PAT and I were sworn in to the Senate on the same day in January of 1997. It has been an honor to serve alongside this national leader in agriculture, health care, and defense. He is an advocate of a strong education system, free and fair trade policies, increased investment in science and technology, a focused foreign policy, and a strong military.

This effective advocate for our Nation’s family farms is a champion for rural America. A recent example is the State Offices of Rural Health Reauthorization Act he introduced and that I cosponsored. This law helps equip rural communities with the resources they need to strengthen their health care delivery systems and improve access to high-quality services for individuals living in rural and underserved areas.

From the U.S. Marine Corps to the U.S. Congress, PAT has served our Nation with uncommon dedication. His wide-ranging accomplishments are united by a commitment to move America forward and empower the American people. I thank him for his service and his friendship and wish him, Frankie, and their family well in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in her memoir titled “Dare to Fly”, Senator Martha McSally tells an especially inspiring story from her Air Force days as the first American woman to fly in combat. This one anecdote reveals the totality of her character.

In September 2005, a routine mission in the skies over Afghanistan suddenly turned into an emergency when a team of U.S. Special Forces were trapped in a canyon and under hostile fire. She raced to the scene only to discover that virtually all of the high-tech electronics for her A-10 Thunderbolt’s navigation and weapons systems had failed.

She had a choice to make: Withdraw, wait for backup, and leave the troops in jeopardy, or continue the attack with her skill, determination, and courage replacing the malfunctioning technology. She made the choice that those of us who have had the honor of working with this great leader from Arizona have come to expect.

The full title of Senator McSally’s memoir is “Dare to Fly: Simple Lessons in Never Giving Up.” From 26 years in the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of full colonel and becoming not only the first woman to fly in combat but also the first to command a fighter squadron, to two terms in the House of Representatives, to her service in the Senate, she has done a lot in her remarkable life. Giving up is one thing she has never done.

It has been a pleasure to work with Senator McSally on many issues, from increasing preventive care and treatment for breast cancer to promoting animal welfare. As a champion for the men and women who serve our country in uniform, she led the way in creating a nationwide Veterans Treatment Court Program to provide our heroes with treatment they need to recover from the invisible wounds of war.

Senator McSally has been a strong advocate for Arizona seniors and a dedicated and involved member of the Aging Committee, of which I serve as chairman. Together, we worked to protect older adults from criminals who sought to rob them of their hard-earned savings and introduced two senior fraud bills: the Anti-Spoofing Penalties Modernization Act to combat unwanted robocalls and the Stamp Out Elder Abuse Act to support community efforts to prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Senator McSally’s memoir contains another powerful story. When she was just 12 years old, her father was stricken by illness and had not long to live. He called his young daughter to his bedside and said this to her: “Make me proud.”

That is another mission this American hero has carried out fully on behalf of the people of Arizona and of our Nation. It makes me proud to have served with Senator Martha McSally, and I wish her all the best in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SUSANA CORDOVA

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to commend a great educator, Susana Cordova, for her service to Denver, our schools, and our children. As Susana steps down as superintendent of Denver Public Schools, it is the right time to say thank you and, more, to say how much we love and respect her for her dedication. She has done so much more than give 30 years to the Denver Public Schools.

At every moment of her DPS career, Susana has been an educator’s educator—committed to each student, able to see their unique gifts and envision their individual success, and willing to meet them where they are so she could walk alongside them as they learned.

She began as a teacher, first at Denver’s Horace Mann Middle School and West High School. There, she taught language arts to students who mostly spoke Spanish at home. She became an assistant principal at Bryant-Webster Elementary School and then a principal at Remington Elementary School, two more schools that served Spanish-speaking families. In her 4 years at Remington, the school saw gains of 33 percent in reading.

In 2002, she joined district leadership and again worked tirelessly to improve outcomes for students. Susana knew that the way to do this was to challenge students academically—to read the poem and write a clear argument about it, to think like a mathematician and show your work, to take courses that earned college credit or offered real workplace experience. Her approach placed high expectations on teachers and principals, not just students. But because she had done the work herself, she was compassionate and always joined with her colleagues learning how to meet those expectations.

In nearly all of these years, DPS improved graduation, literacy, and math rates faster than the State of Colorado. Just as important, achievement gaps narrowed. Throughout Susana’s tenure as an instructional leader, DPS focused on improving the academic outcomes of students of color and students from families who qualify for free lunch. She would be the first to say that Denver, like other big-city school systems, has plenty of work left to do. There are still Denver children who might have even greater opportunity when they graduated if they were challenged to read “Bless Me, Ultima,” if they had a few more chances to learn how to balance a chemical equation, or if they graduated with a little college credit to help them along the way to earning a college degree.

Susana’s commitment to DPS is more than professional. As a student, she attended kindergarten at Denver’s Barnum Elementary School. She went on to Kepner Middle School and graduated from Abraham Lincoln High